Socialist Worker

PACKARD ELECTRIC WORKERS:

Stand together against Schramm

DAVID SCHRAMM and his henchmen have finally forced the workers in Packard Electric to accept his cost cutting plan.

On the day following the workers reluctant acceptance of the plan a number of workers who had been laid off last year and promised they would be taken back soon were told their jobs had gone for good.

This shows the ruthlessness with which Schramm pursues the profits of Packard and its parent General Motors at the expense of the workers' conditions and livelihoods.

Socialist Worker believes it was a mistake for the union leaders and shop stewards to recommend acceptance of the plan. The spirit of resistance was shown by the fact that it took three ballots to wear down the resistance of workers to the plan.

But the time for recriminations is gone. All workers in Packard Electric must now stand together to see the company does not come back for more in months ahead.

Schramm has gone on record as saying that further lay-offs are on the cards. The General Motors corporation is an enormously wealthy and profitable organisation. But its profits come from the sweat of workers in its plants and subsidiaries around the world.

Schramm will use the threat of closure again if he can get away with it. But Packard have a lot of equipment and skilled workers tied up in Tallaght. It is not easy just to up sticks and go. Packard Electric workers have suffered a set-back from which they can recover—particularly if they maintain their trade union organisation and stand firm.

If the links are built with other workers in the GM empire we can stand up to the threats of Schramm and Co.

Packard Electric is another example of the crying need to build a real socialist alternative to the crazy profit system. We in the Socialist Workers Movement are building a real socialist party of working class men and women that fights against injustice and for genuine socialism—where the mass of humanity plan production for human need not the profits of the filthy rich.

Socialist Worker Public Meeting

Packard: Can the Multi-Nationals be beaten?

Speakers: Packard worker, Kieran Allen (Editor *Socialist Worker*)

Tuesday 31st January, 8.00pm

Walkinstown Community Centre (by Walkinstown Library)

Join the Socialists!

If you would like to join or receive more details of the Socialist Workers Movement send this slip to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 (Tel: (01) 872 2682

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....